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'Vital to monitor activities of children in varsities'

KUALA LUMPUR: The formation of an association of parents and academicians at universities is essential to discuss and monitor activities of students more effectively, said Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Political and International Studies lecturer Md Shukri Shuib.

He said close relationships between academicians and students' parents would change the perception that universities were owned by students and academicians, without the need for the role of parents.

Shukri also said the positive participation of young people in the political arena can generate mature thinking and turn out sensible individuals.

Towards this end, he said parents must monitor and guide their children against involvement in street politics.

He said parents must be aware of their children's activities and always nurture them with a sense of responsibility to the nation.

"If the children are still staying with their families, parents must find out who their friends are to prevent them from being influenced

and made use of via involvement in leftist politics.

"Monitoring by parents is crucial because children who take part in politics should become more matured individuals because it is the nature of politicians to be sensitive to current issues and involve in national development activities."

On the role of parents in the involvement of students in politics, Shukri said they should not have a "hands-off" attitude by leaving it to universities to mould their children.

He said the feeling of being free of parental control, in a new surrounding with friends when furthering their studies at institutions of higher learning, induces children to form their own idealism as if their new life was more democratic compared to their life at home where parents ruled.

Taking the example of the young pro-opposition activist, Adam Adli Abd Halim, who allegedly instigated the public to topple the government through street demonstrations, Shukri said it was an act of self-promotion and to reap popu-

larity.

He said parents, too, should not be obsessed with the politics of certain parties to prevent such attitudes from influencing the political understanding of their children.

Shukri said the right to participate in politics via the amendment to the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 (AUKU) should be exercised properly and not abused.

Meanwhile, Yayasan Guru Malaysia Berhad's (YGMB) Tuition Centre principal Suhaimi Rashid said the action of some youths who purportedly wanted to uphold their rights by giving talks which were instigative in nature to overturn the government would only bring calamity to them.

"Some of the youths involved in street politics and demonstrations are smart individuals academically but because they are influenced and promised lucrative returns such as material rewards and posts, they act like uneducated buffoons.

"By right, they must be able to think wisely, not act emotionally and use the right channel and never resort to street politics to voice their dissatisfaction." **Bernama**